

Mountaineer

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Home at last



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Above: Pvt. Tyler Hull, left, Pvt. Matthew Collins, middle, and Sgt. Christian Axenie, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division are ready to celebrate with some stogies after their homecoming ceremony Nov. 17 at the Special Events Center.

Left: Fifty-eight Soldiers from the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID, returning from Iraq, receive greetings on the flight line at the Colorado Jet Center, Nov. 15. See page 11 for more homecoming photos.

Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

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MUST SEE



Dining facilities vie for top holiday display honors.

See Page 24.

Pentagon Channel 'Recon' program focuses on military children

by David Mays

The Pentagon Channel

WASHINGTON — "I send him off with a kiss goodbye, although I understand that he may die."

Those are words from a poem written by a third-grader named Gloria who lives with her family at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. She concludes her poem this way: "I serve too."

That child's sentiment is the subject and title of the Pentagon Channel's new half-hour documentary "Recon," which premiered Nov. 24 and will be repeated throughout the holiday season. The show will also be available via podcast, vodcast and video on demand. It can be viewed on-line at <http://pentagonchannel.feedroom.com/iframeaset.jsp?ord=398763>.

"Coping with family separation, fear for a parent, and trying not to let their pain show are things many military children experience," said Recon host

Air Force Master Sgt. Daniela Marchus. "But there's a growing awareness of the challenges and special needs military kids have, particularly those of Guard and reserve families."

The documentary introduces viewers to a military family who experienced deployment to a war zone firsthand and explores how their children dealt with the painful reality.

"Being without your dad when you're 8 years old is a big deal," said Army Reserve Capt. Arthur Rizer, who was deployed to Iraq last year for 15 months with just three weeks' notice. "I can only imagine what his little heart and mind were going through."

Rizer's wife, Monique, was just adjusting to caring for 8-year-old Gabriel and 1-year-old Asher on her own when she got word her husband's vehicle had been attacked by an

Freedom's challenge

by Moriah Harter

Editor's note: This article was forwarded to us by Harter's grandmother, Florence M. Johnson of LaCrosse, Wisc. In her cover letter, Johnson talked about helping out her daughter, 1st Lt. Catherine Bessler, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, by helping to care for her daughters here at Fort Carson in her absence. Bessler recently returned from the 3rd HBCT's deployment to Iraq.

According to Johnson, every year the junior classes in Wisconsin high schools have an assignment to write an essay, the best forwarded to a statewide competition. This year, Harter, a junior at Luther High School in Onalaska, Wisc., chose to write an essay based on her Aunt Katie's experiences. The essay was selected to be forwarded. Her grandmother wanted to share this with all the Soldiers and family members of Fort Carson to let them know that many more people, besides those here, are thankful for all their efforts and sacrifices.

The radiant sun puts a sparkle on the face of an expectant mother, who is walking out of the never-ending tunnel which takes her off of her newly arrived plane. Everyone who sees her shouts

out acclamations of joy. She is covered by people giving her hugs and kisses, but one little person hasn't come just yet. This mother hasn't seen her 1-year-old daughter in six months. The mother holds out her loving arms and says, "Come to mommy." The anxious mother's heart is pounding and her pulse is rising higher and higher by the second. Doubts race through her head. What if my own little girl doesn't remember me? What if she runs to her dad, because she is afraid of me, her mother? Am I failing as a mother?

Can you parents out there imagine not being sure of whether or not your own child would recognize you? This is one of the many challenges that are faced by many military moms. They leave their children, whom they love more than life, to go to a foreign country, where they don't know anyone. Moreover, the people they are traveling to are trying to take their very lives. Why, is the question you ask? Why would a mother leave her child and every other man, woman and child in America? They know that freedom isn't free, and it sure isn't cheap. They are real live examples of "Freedom's Challenge."

Why do you think you can be sure that when you come home at night your house will still be there? You don't worry about coming home to find your prime investment burnt down to the ground

because it was hit by a bomb during a terrorist attack. Do you? No, we don't, and we owe that to our military troops that are sleeping out in the cold every night, putting their lives at stake for their country. They are doing their part, but what about us? Does the phrase "Freedom's Challenge" mean anything to you? Do we have to face daily trials for our freedom? When was the last time you put your life on the line for freedom? I know that I don't, but could I? If I don't want to be in the military, then just what can I do?

For one, I can give my full and complete support to those that are willing to put their lives on the line. Not just by sending a pity check to some organization that will use it for the troops, but you can personally get involved. You can send anonymous gifts to the troops or you can just simply tell a man or woman in uniform that you see on the street that you appreciate what he or she is doing. A simple gesture would take us less than a minute, so why don't we?

That young child takes one good solid look at her mother and runs without a single hesitation to her mother's waiting arms. That mother's sacrifices for freedom, her efforts for freedom's challenge are rewarded. The child she was fighting to protect, the one she daily missed and longed to see was now in her arms. She did her part, now it's time for us to do ours.

Keep holiday lights safe

Office of the Garrison Commander

The holiday season is fast approaching. Decorative lights and fixtures will certainly be a part of our celebrations as we ready our homes, offices and other areas for the holidays. In a time of dramatically increasing energy costs, the additional lighting has the potential to increase Fort Carson's utility bills by thousands of dollars. The holiday lighting policy strives to achieve a balance of our individual desires for decorative lighting with our responsibility to conserve energy and be good stewards of our resources.

This policy applies to all units, directorates and agencies assigned and attached to Fort Carson, including contractor personnel occupying facilities on Fort Carson.

Please abide by the following energy conservation measures to save energy and money:

✱ Use outside lighting only between Nov. 23 and Jan. 7.

✱ Avoid excessive use of decorative lighting, inside and out.

✱ Turn electrical decorations on no earlier than dusk and off no later than 11 p.m., except on Dec. 24-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1, when they may remain on until 1 a.m.

✱ Turn off holiday decorations when facilities are not occupied.

✱ If possible, buy lighting decorations that have the Energy Star label or use light-emitting diodes instead of incandescent bulbs.

Please abide by the following fire and safety guidelines as well:

✱ Ensure all electrical decorations are in good working order and are without fraying or other damage.

✱ Use a power strip instead of several extension cords, which can be fire and tripping hazards.

✱ Use extension cords rated for the load to be placed on them.

✱ Do not use three-way extension cords especially on inside decorations.

✱ Do not use extension cords in doorways or other locations where they could become damaged and short out.

✱ Do not light or use candles near curtains, decorations or in other locations near combustible or flammable items.

✱ Do not leave lighted candles unattended.

✱ Keep cut evergreen trees well watered, checking the water level daily.

✱ Keep small objects and decorations out of the reach of small children.



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NEWS

Secretary of the Army visits 2nd IBCT Soldiers, awards combat patches

by Spc. Courtney E. Marulli
2nd Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs Office

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE
LOYALTY, Iraq** — Fifteen Soldiers in

the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, will never forget the day they received their first combat patch. Not everyone receives their patch from the Secretary of the Army.

On Nov. 23, Francis J. Harvey

came to Forward Operating Base Loyalty to share a Thanksgiving meal and award Soldiers their first combat patch.

Harvey was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil Jr., 1st Cavalry Division commander, and 1st Cavalry Command Sgt. Maj. Philip F. Johndrow. Meeting them at the flight line were Col. Jeffrey L. Bannister, 2nd IBCT commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, 2nd IBCT.

Receiving a combat patch from the Secretary of the Army made for a memorable day, according to 1st Lt. Sarah E. Lund, executive officer, B Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd IBCT.

"It's the fact that he took time to come and give Soldiers the combat patch," she said. "It doesn't just represent combat, but the brothers and sisters we've lost."

Lund said it means a lot to have someone in a high position reach out to those who are just beginning their careers.

The combat patch's meaning is

something that Pfc. Brian T. Paquette, fire support specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd IBCT, will always carry with him.

"It was a relief," he said of receiving his combat patch from Harvey. "It felt good because I felt substandard around all the other Soldiers who had their combat patch."

Paquette said the relief came from knowing that he won't have to listen to Soldiers continually telling him he doesn't have a combat patch. Besides the patch, Paquette and the other Soldiers got an autographed picture of themselves with Harvey.

"It's something to take back to the states," Paquette said, adding he's looking forward to showing it to his family.

Receiving his combat patch helped remind him why he's serving.

"Being over here is the reason I joined the Army," he said. "I joined not to just be a Soldier, but to fight alongside the other Soldiers serving."

Paquette said he always knew he



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bronco Suzuki

First Lt. Sarah E. Lund, executive officer for B Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, receives her combat patch from the Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey, assistance from Command Sgt. Maj. William Johnson, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major. Harvey visited Soldiers on Forward Operating Base Loyalty Nov. 23.

Channel

From Page 1

improvised explosive device, just one week into his deployment. Several Iraqi citizens in the patrol were killed. Somehow, Rizer escaped with only a concussion and some hearing loss. Monique was suddenly struck with the very real danger her husband faced every day. Her older son reacted too.

"He developed a lot of fears," Monique said. "He started having nightmares. He was just afraid of everything."

According to National Military Family Association figures, about 115,000 children are coping with having one or more parents deployed away from home. While many assistance resources have long been available for deploying servicemembers, the same has not been true for military children, according to the association.

"After 9/11, parents started calling and saying 'Hey, there are great programs, but there's nothing

for my kids,'" said MNFA's Michelle Joyner. "We need something where kids can get together and build their own network."

"People don't think about the effect on kids," Marchus said. "It's huge."

Marchus discovered help was more readily available for active duty families than for Guard and reserve families, who tend to be more isolated from fellow servicemembers. For instance, she said, active duty military children are likely to attend school with other military children. When children of Guard and reserve parents suddenly find their family "called up," they may have no peers to talk with who are experiencing the same thing, she explained.

But Marchus said she discovered during her research that more and more organizations are reaching out to military children. The legendary children's television program "Sesame Street" has even developed a program to help young children better understand and cope with a parent's deployment.

Military families from all services, including the Guard and reserve, contributed to the development of that program that features a DVD starring a beloved Sesame Street character.

"We can really help children under 5 in military families, along with their parents, to really stay connected," said Children's Theatre Workshop's Jeanette Bettancourt. "To listen to one another, to talk to one another during a deployment."

Gabriel Rizer found a unique way to do just that while his father was away in Iraq. "I used to write books for weeks, and then I'd send them to him," Gabriel says.

Other featured programs include special summer camps for military children and Web sites where families can turn for resources and help. "It's likely there's a benefit or service that best fits your children's specific needs," said Marchus. "(The top experts') advice to everyone else is to remember, in their own way, military kids serve, too."

Visits

From Page 3

should support the war and joining the military was the best way he could do just that. He expected to deploy, but never thought he'd meet someone like Harvey.

"Being an older private, I can appreciate meeting someone like that," he said. "The younger Soldiers don't really grasp it."

Pfc. Cole M. Swenson, a cavalry scout with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd IBCT, said receiving his patch from Harvey was something he will never forget.

"It feels great," he said. "It's one of the best moments of my life."

Swenson said it feels good to serve a year in Iraq because he knows he's doing something good. He originally joined the Army because he wanted independence and to help people. He said there are many people in Iraq who need help.

He said the experience will be a memory he will cherish and something to tell his future children.

MILITARY

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team takes over in Iraq

by Spc. Courtney E. Marulli
2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq — The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took over for the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hernandez, brigade fires and effects noncommissioned officer, said everything has gone smoothly despite occasional attacks.

"During the relief in place with the outgoing unit, they gave us the data and procedures on how they conducted drills, and gave us the capability to react in a tactical way," Hernandez said.

The training during Bayonet Strike and at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., combined with the right tools and equipment, gives Soldiers the ability to conduct counter-fire operations.

Last year, Hernandez was at Forward Operating Base Speicher with the 1st Infantry Division. That tour differs from the current one because FOB Speicher received very little indirect fire. "Here, it most definitely gives us the opportunity to practice our skills to the fullest," Hernandez said.

Soldiers who have never deployed before are reacting well for the most part, Hernandez said. However, it's the actual experience that makes them hone their skills. "The best way to prepare is with NTC and such, but the best experience is

hands on and coming to a combat zone yourself," Hernandez said.

Pfc. Ted A. Piasecki, an intelligence analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery Regiment, said his transition from garrison to combat has gone as smoothly as can be expected.

The exercises at NTC helped the unit prepare for Iraq, Piasecki said, and his main goal here is to do the best job he can.

"I am trained to do it, and I want to do it well and excel at it," he said.

Capt. Wayne Surret, 2nd IBCT surgeon, said the medics and physician's assistants are well prepared for their mission. He said a lot of Soldiers have undergone the Ranger First Responder Course and are all primed for this deployment.

The medics had little time to adjust from garrison, Surret said, because hours after arrival, a mortar attack caused several casualties.

"I think it was a shock at first," Surret said. "But nobody froze, nobody acted inappropriately at all. Everyone did fantastic. Everybody acted like a seasoned medic."

The motivation and morale among medics is high, Surret said, and everyone works well together.

"I know that they are going to save a lot of lives because of all the preparation," Surret said. "The medics and PA's are going to save soldier's lives." Surret said the transition from the 506th to 2nd IBCT went smoothly. "They've done an outstanding job of making it seamless for us," he said. "We couldn't ask for a better group. We appreciate what they've done."

Military briefs

Miscellaneous

University of Illinois ROTC — is seeking Soldiers for its Green to Gold and Lateral Entry programs. Call (877) 863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu or visit www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc for details.

Operation Warrior Trainer — The OWT program is looking for reserve component Soldiers returning from overseas operations to serve as observer/controller trainers. Reservists have 180 days to apply following demobilization. Call Lt. Col. Michael Hauser at 526-5501 for details or visit www.first.army.mil and click on the Uncle Sam poster.

Isolated Personnel Report — has moved to building 1042, room 224. ISOPREP should be completed prior to deployment overseas. Call 526-1397 for appointments.

Officer Candidate School — Packet submissions for direct select and local OCS are now handled by the Personnel Services Battalion in building 1218, room 160. OCS direct selection is in effect until Sept. 30, 2007, and there are still slots open. Contact Tom Grady at 526-3947 for more information.

Trial defense service hours — TDS hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. TDS is closed on Fridays except for appointments and emergencies. Chapters briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1 p.m., and Article 15 briefings are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

New dental clinic hours — All dental clinics are open Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Sick call hours are from 7 a.m.-9 a.m.

Hazardous Material Control Center — The HMCC reopened Oct. 11. All customers that received support prior to July 8 will again get support from this facility.

Finance in- and out-processing — The in- and out-processing section of finance has consolidated its operations on the second floor of building 1218. Travel and accessions moved from the first floor of building 1218 to the second floor.

Customers for in- and out-processing should go to room 230 in building 1218, sign in and wait for a technician. Phone numbers remain the same: separations 526-8473/8476/1302; retirement 526-4233/4234/8470; travel 526-9930/0507/0475; accessions 526-8479/8236/4558; and chief of in- and out-processing 526-6230.

ACAP relocation — The Army Career and Alumni Program Center has moved to building 1117, room 114. Soldiers should use the southwest entrance. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Veterans Administration relocation — The VA is now located in building 6220 on the first floor.

Harmony in Motion auditions — Harmony in Motion will hold auditions for sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Auditions will be held daily at the Freedom Performing Arts Center, building 1129, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. For more information visit www.carson.army.mil/harmony or call Sgt. Scott Dickson at 524-3618 or 338-2340.

Casualty and Mortuary Affairs offices — have moved to building 1218, rooms 164, 165 and 168. Telephone numbers remain the same.

TSP Pilot — Let the Thrift Savings Plan Pilot take the guesswork out of your TSP fund choice decisions (including the new L funds).

TSP Pilot's investment analysts give you optimized fund balance allocations you can plug into your TSP account Web site to maximize returns. A fee issue is available.

Please allow a few moments for the page to fully load: <http://TSP-pilot.com>.

Environmental Health training — The Environmental Health section of Preventive Medicine offers heat category monitoring training, food service sanitation training and classes on hot and cold weather injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, hearing conservation and medical threat briefings. For more information on these classes call 526-7922 or 524-2238.

DPW services — The Directorate of Public Works is responsible for a wide variety of services on Fort Carson. Services range from repair and maintenance of facilities to equipping units with a sweeper and cleaning motor pools. Listed below are phone numbers and points of contact for services:

- Facility repair/service orders — KIRA service order desk can be reached at 526-5345. Use this number for emergencies or routine tasks.

- Refuse/trash — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 when needing trash containers, trash is overflowing or emergency service is required.

- Facility custodial services — Call Larry Haack at 526-9237 for service needs or to report complaints.

- Elevator maintenance — Call Sharon Gayle at 526-1695.

- Motor pool sludge removal/disposal — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243.

- Repair and utility/self-help — Call Gary Grant at 526-5844. Use this number to obtain self-help tools and equipment or a motorized sweeper.

- Base operations contract Contracting Officer Representative — Call Terry Hagen at 526-9262 for reporting wind damage, snow removal concerns, damaged traffic signs or other facility damage.

- Portable latrines — Call Kandy Clark at 526-9243 to request latrines, for service or to report damaged or overturned latrines.

CIF Hours

Regular business hours — The Central Issue Facility has changed its operating hours. The CIF is no longer open on Fridays. Soldiers may make appointments by calling 526-3321. Listed below are the new operating hours.

In-processing

Monday-Thursday from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Initial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial issues

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Cash sales/report of survey

Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Direct exchange

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Partial turn-ins

Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Full turn-ins

Monday-Thursday 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Unit issues and turn-ins

Call 526-5512/6477 for approval.

Hours of operation

Education Center hours of operation — The Mountain Post Training and Education Center's hours are as follows:

- **Counselor Support Center** — Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Friday, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

- **Learning Resource Center** — Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- **Defense Activity for Nontraditional Education Support and Advanced Personnel Testing** — Monday-Friday 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **Basic Skills Education Program/Functional Academic Skills Training** — Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m.; closed training holidays.

- **eArmyU Testing** — Monday-Friday, 12:15-4:15 p.m.; closed training holidays.

Military Occupational Specialty Library — Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and training holidays 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Legal Assistance hours — Operating hours for the Legal Assistance Office are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m.

Claims Division hours — The Claims Division office hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and closed federal and training holidays.

To make a claim, Soldiers must attend a mandatory briefing, which is given Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

At the briefing, Soldiers must submit a Department of Defense Form 1840/1840R. Submit completed claims Tuesdays and Thursdays.

DFAC hours — Fort Carson dining facilities operate under the following hours:

Wolf Inn — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

Butts Army Airfield — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6:30 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Patton Inn — Monday-Friday 7:30-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 5-7 p.m. (dinner). Weekend hours are 7:30-9 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.

10th SFG — Monday-Friday 7-9 a.m. (breakfast), 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (lunch) and 4:30-6 p.m. (dinner). This DFAC is closed weekends.

Briefings

Special Forces briefings — will be held Wednesdays at building 1217, room 305, from 10-11 a.m., noon-1 p.m. and 5-6 p.m.

Soldiers must be E4-E6 from any military occupational specialty; have a general technical score of at least 100; be a U.S. citizen; score 229 or higher on the Army Physical Fitness Test; and pass a Special Forces physical. Call 524-1461 or visit the Web site at www.bragg.army.mil/sorb.

ACAP briefing — The Army Career and Alumni Program predeparture briefing is required for all departing servicemembers. Current ACAP policy requires personnel ending time in service to register one year out and retirees two years out. ACAP predeparture briefings are held Monday-Thursday from 7:30-9 a.m.

Attendees should report to ACAP by 7:15 a.m. to building 1117, room 114. Call 526-1002 to schedule the briefing.

ETS briefing — ETS briefings for enlisted personnel will be held the first and third Tuesday of each month until further notice.

Briefing sign-in begins at 7 a.m. at building 1042, room 310. Briefings will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soldiers must be within 120 days of their ETS but must attend the briefing no later than 30 days prior to their ETS or start date of transition leave. Call 526-2240 for more information.

Fuelmasters of the 59th QM recognized

**Story and photos by
Rebecca E. Tonn**

Mountaineer staff

Soldiers from the 59th Quartermaster Company, 68th Corps Support Battalion, 43rd Area Support Group, featured in a story, "Hot Refuel a wild ride," in the Nov. 3 issue of the *Mountaineer*, were honored Nov. 16.

An open house, hosted by the 68th CSB and Petroleum and Water Systems, featured a static display of the new Modular Fuel System. Soldiers from the 59th QM, better known as "Fuelmasters," were presented with awards by Tracy Mitchell, deputy product manager of Petroleum and Water Systems. PWS is developing the new MFS for the Army.

Mark Wolak, assistant acquisition manager for PWS, thanked the 59th QM for testing the Modular Fuel System, from June to October, and for the dedication and professionalism it displayed downrange during months of testing.

The MFS consists of 14 2,500-gallon tank rack modules, two 600 gallons-per-minute pumps, 3,300 feet of hose and two eight-point Refuel-On-the-Move configurations.

Sixteen aircraft can be refueled simultaneously with up to 35,000 gallons of fuel and it is aviation hot-refuel capable, which

the 59th QM proved Oct. 24 at Camp Red Devil, when it successfully and simultaneously refueled two OH-58 Kiowa helicopters, with engines and rotors running, in three minutes, 41 seconds.

Company commander Capt. Anthony Leach accepted a plaque from Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command on behalf of the 59th QM.

"We are pleased to receive this award from TACOM. It was the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers. It didn't matter if it was cold or raining — they did the job with no complaints," Leach said.



Tracy Mitchell, right, deputy product manager for the contractor, congratulates Sgt. Rich McAuliffe, as Capt. Anthony Leach looks on.



The Modular Fuel System, including tank rack modules, pump modules and fuel containment system, is displayed beneath camouflage netting at the open house.

Injuries can't keep good Soldier down

Story and photos by Spc. Alexis Harrison
2nd BCT, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The troops from Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, currently attached to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, have been patrolling the war-torn streets of the al Doura since their transfer of authority earlier this month.



Spc. Erin Killian, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, is awarded the Purple Heart by Col. Bryan Roberts, commander, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, for injuries suffered during a mission in the al Doura District, Baghdad, Nov. 24.

Since then, the battalion has encountered just about everything one would expect when entering a hostile area. Roadside bombs, ambushes and hostility were a normal part of any patrol through the area. The battalion had a nearly flawless track record of going back to the Forward Operating Base Falcon unscathed, unusual for troops in Iraq. That is, until Nov. 22.

Spc. Erin Killian was shot in the leg during a routine patrol through one of the worst areas in the capital city. Even as he recovers from his wound, he's more concerned about his comrades.

"I want to get back out there with my guys," Killian Said. "There are more important things than me. I'm still alive."

Not only is he alive and ambitious to get back with his friends, but he was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in action. He was visited by the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division commander, Col. Bryan Roberts, and the brigade's Command Sgt. Maj. James Lee.

"I had the chance to reward a true hero," Roberts said. "He's tough. He's definitely the kind of Soldier every unit needs."

Roberts explained the importance of the medal as not just an award for getting injured, but the bravery shown while in action.

"Every time Soldiers are on a mission, they know what could happen," he remarked.

"Guys out there are unafraid. They fight with instinct. They do the right thing without even thinking about it."

Killian recounted the events of that day. He was assisting his teammates by providing security when he rounded a corner and was met with small arms fire. He knew immediately he had been hit.

He quickly took cover. Unfortunately, the medic that was with his group was trapped on the other side of the street. With a clear presence of mind, he stayed calm and gave himself first aid while his team took care of business.

"I stayed down for about 10 minutes," he said. "It was harder to calm down the two privates with us than me."

When Roberts asked Killian how he felt, Killian proudly responded by saying he wants to be with his friends on the battlefield.

After One-Station Unit Training, Killian was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment (Air Assault). He joined them for his first tour through Iraq. He has been a part of the same platoon now for the better part of four years.

After modularity changes, the 2-506th was redesignated the 2nd BCT, 2nd ID. Killian and most of his friends stayed with the unit after the changes.

While at the hospital resting, Killian called his parents to let them know he was all right. He'll be headed to Germany for some rest and rehabilitation before he goes home or back to FOB Falcon with his friends.

"I feel fine," he said. "I have to go through the proper steps to get better, so I can get back out there with my guys."

2nd BCT pays tribute to DCO

by Staff Sgt. W.
Wayne Marlow

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team

FORWARD OPERATING BASE LOYALTY, Iraq — Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took time Nov. 8 to remember a man they knew as a deputy commander, a father, a husband, and a friend.

Lt. Col. Eric Kruger died Nov. 2 outside Forward Operating Base Loyalty.

"Since then I have been searching for the right words to say to the Soldiers who have lost someone they served with, respected, and with whom they shared a bond with as brothers in arms," said Col. Jeffrey Bannister, 2nd BCT commander.

Bannister noted Kruger had been much more to him than deputy commander.

"I am not speaking tonight just because I am the brigade commander and it's my duty, but as a personal friend of Eric's since 1991, when I served with him in the same brigade, while stationed in Korea," Bannister said. "I was Eric's second company commander while he was XO. He was the most steely-eyed, aggressive lieutenant I had seen since arriving in the brigade."

Kruger was born Jan. 12, 1966, in Heidelberg, Germany, into a military family. After graduating from Southern Methodist University with a bachelor's degree in political science, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry and began an 18-year Army career.

That career included five combat tours, and he served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea and Botswana. He also served with the Old Guard and at the Pentagon.

Although he had just finished a tour in Afghanistan, Kruger requested being sent to the 2nd BCT, knowing the unit was slated for Iraq duty.

"I had other lieutenant colonels tell me that they wanted the job, but once I found out that I was getting Eric, I told them the job was already filled," Bannister said.

Kruger soon justified Bannister's faith in him.

"Eric quickly demonstrated his ability to interact with battalion commanders as peers. Even though he hadn't commanded a battalion yet, they truly respected him from day one because he got traction on transformation frictions that we had been working for months. I have never seen a better performance by a DCO."

His dedication to the Army was matched only by his commitment to his family, Bannister noted.

"He had an eternal love for his wife Sara and his four kids: Christian, Elise, Caitlin, and Joshua — kids who can only hear about what a great man their father was, and never really understand

why their dad isn't coming home," Bannister said. "In my mind, I still see the image of Eric wiping his eyes quickly so I wouldn't see his emotions the morning he said bye to his family in the parking lot."

See **Kruger** on Page 10



Photo by Staff Sgt. Wayne Marlow

Col. Jeffrey Bannister, center, and Command Sgt. Major William Johnson, 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, pay tribute to Lt. Col. Eric Kruger.

Kruger

From Page 9

Bannister spoke with Kruger's wife earlier in the week.

"Obviously grief stricken, she was always devoted to her husband, the goals of this country, and his duties as a Soldier and leader," Bannister said. "Sara, I speak for the brigade when I say we feel your loss as well."

Kruger's numerous awards included the Bronze Star with one oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He also earned a Ranger Tab, and Expert Infantryman, Air Assault, Pathfinder and Parachutist Badges. Fitting for such an accomplished man, Kruger kept soldiering hard to the end.

"The last conversation about our profession that I overheard Lt. Col. Kruger discussing was with Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson the night before he died," Bannister said. "The topic was about Soldier and noncommissioned officer standards, and he was running a few ideas by the brigade CSM for a wisdom check. He wanted to make sure that he was doing the right thing and never stopped thinking how he could make this brigade better. At the end of the day on Nov. 2, 2006, no one could have asked for more, and he gave nothing less than the last full measure of his devotion for our nation."

And now it falls to the rest of the Brigade to move forward and honor Kruger's memory.

"If we could hear the DCO now, he would say, 'In my absence, carry on this noble cause,' and we will," Bannister said. "He should expect nothing less from us."



Photo by Michael J. Pach

The best of the best

Sgt. Jacob Strickland, left, Spc. Stephane Peltier, middle, and Spc. Harlinton Austin listen to a speech given by Command Sgt. Maj. Terrance McWilliams during the Noncommissioned Officer/Soldier of the First Quarter Ceremony for fiscal year 2007, Nov. 20 at the Elkhorn Conference Center. Strickland was named the NCO of the quarter, and Peltier was named the Soldier of the quarter. Austin was the runner up for the Soldier of the Quarter award. All three Soldiers received awards from the Army and a variety of gifts from businesses in the community.

COMMUNITY

Troops return before holiday

Photo by Michael J. Pach



Britany Walters anxiously awaits the arrival of her friend, Pvt. Tyler Hull, of the 64th BSB, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID at the Special Events Center, Nov. 17.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Emily Sawyer, in red, Meghan Castleberry, in white, and Patricia Dalglish, in blue, welcome home Sgt. John Dalglish of the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division in fine fashion at the welcome home ceremony Nov. 17.



Soldiers of the 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, smile as they receive greetings on the flight line at the Colorado Jet Center, Nov. 15, as they return from Iraq.

Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Capt. Jorge Aponte, 1-68 Combined Arms Battalion, center, enjoys greetings, Nov. 22, from Staff Sgt. Luis Hernandez, right, with video camera, and Staff Sgt. Noel Morales, left, both with the 3rd HBCT. Hernandez and Morales returned from Iraq earlier in November.



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Kelly Deutch, mother of Pfc. Justin Tomczyk, 1-68 CAB, 3rd HBCT, 4th ID, cries tears of joy after being reunited with her son. "It's like having him all over again; I've waited so long to see him," Deutch said. Tomczyk was with the last group of Soldiers from the 3rd HBCT to arrive home from Iraq, Nov. 22 — just in time for Thanksgiving.

Community briefs

Miscellaneous

2006 Army Digital Photography Contest —

Don't miss your chance to showcase your talent. Deadline is Dec. 10. Categories include color digital images and monochrome images of people, places, objects, military life and experimental processes. Entry forms and information are available at www.armymwr.com, go to Recreation, Contest and Events. Or visit the Smith Craft Center, building 2426, Wetzel Avenue, next to the Auto Craft Center. The number for Smith Craft Center is 526-0900/3487.

Holiday voice stream greetings for deployed Soldiers — The Eagle 103.9 and Kilo 94.3 radio stations will be at the Fort Carson Post Exchange Tuesday from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Soldiers, family members and friends may record holiday greetings for Soldiers in Iraq.

Video Messenger — is free at the library. Soldiers and family members can record a video in either mini-DVD or VHS before and during deployments. Call 526-2350 to schedule an appointment.

New Teen Group starting — a five-week curriculum is offered by Evans Army Community Hospital Social Work Service. This is an opportunity for teens to discuss issues involving friends, family, dating, school, drug and alcohol abuse and other topics, in a safe and nonconfrontational environment. Sessions meet Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161, for ages 13-17. Register by calling 526-4585. Teens may join at any time throughout the curriculum.

"Cool Kids" deployment group starting — Help your child cope with deployment. Designed for children ages 6-14. Offered by Evans Army Community Hospital Social Work Services. The 12-week curriculum meets weekly, starting Thursday, from 3:45-4:45 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161. Register by calling 526-4585.

"Putting on the brakes": a group for Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder parents and their children — Parents: learn about diagnosis, medications, relaxation techniques, focus methods and coping skills. Children: learn social skills, taking directions, relaxation and coping. Offered by Evans Army Community Hospital Social Work Services. The six-week curriculum meets weekly, starting Thursday, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Family University, building 1161. Register by calling 526-4585.

Continuing education grants available — through the Fort Carson Community Thrift Shop. Five \$1,000 grants are available for eligible applicants. Military spouse or immediate family member no active duty. Must be in good academic standing, with a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Contact Gail Olson for application procedures at 526-5966/9422 or thriftshop@gmail.com. Application deadline is Dec. 14.

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings — are held each Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. at the Colorado Inn, corner of Sheridan Avenue and Woodfill Road, building 7301, room 203. Call 322-9766 or 471-1625 for more information.

Harr Avenue reconstruction — from Titus Boulevard north to Coleman Avenue will begin Monday and continue for approximately 12 months, in four phases. Phase one includes the Titus Boulevard intersection to a point south of the north entrance to Aleutian Circle, and weather permitting, will be completed by the end of February.

The contract includes replacing all of the asphalt, pouring concrete curb and gutters on both sides of the road, and the construction of 800 linear feet of sidewalks along the east side of the road.

Post Traumatic Stress help — "LZ Calvary" is a small group Bible study and support group for veterans experiencing the effects of post traumatic stress disorder.

Join a group of veterans who are experienced in combat-related problems and who have successfully dealt with the memories and effects of combat as we work through PTSD-related problems through the study of God's word, fellowship and group discussion. Meetings are held Mondays at 10 a.m. at Grace Brethren Church, 2975 Jet Wing Dr. Call Robert P. Schaffer at 390-8096 or 510-6009.

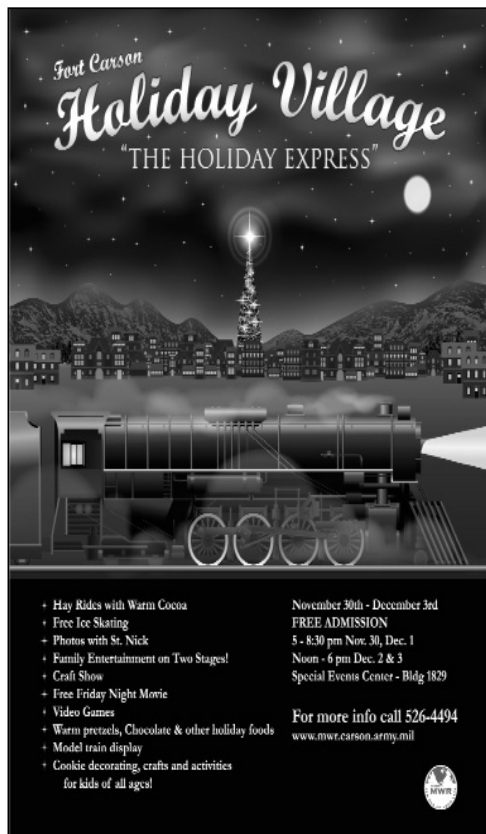
Hypertension class — Do you have high blood pressure? Do you want to lower your risk of heart disease? A hypertension class is presented every other Thursday from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Mountain Post Wellness Center, building 1526. To register or for more information call 526-7022. The class is presented by Disease Management and Nutrition Care.

Job openings — Fountain-Fort Carson School District Eight has openings for food service workers and delivery drivers. For more information call 382-1334 or apply in person at 11355 Old Pueblo Road in Fountain.

No physical training zone — The area under construction, north of Ranges 69 and 5, should not be used for any training at any time. Construction is under way. The area is bracketed to the north by Khe Sahn Street, to the east by Berkeley Avenue, and to the west by Brown Road, Titus Boulevard and Specker Avenue.

Fort Carson fire department — will conduct a prescribed burn program, in accordance with permits issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and in coordination with the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, continuing until the end of December, weather permitting. For more information contact the Fort Carson Public Affairs Office at 526-1264/4113. After hours contact the 24-hour Emergency Operations Center at 526-5500 and ask for the on-call public affairs officer.

Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management — Building 6287, near Prussman and Mekong, is being dismantled and demolished and will continue until Dec. 31. Stay out of the area and do not park within 100 feet of the building. Call Eldon Granger at 526-1687 for further information.



Fort Carson
Holiday Village
"THE HOLIDAY EXPRESS"

- Hay Rides with Warm Cocoa
- Free Ice Skating
- Photos with St. Nick
- Family Entertainment on Two Stages!
- Craft Show
- Free Friday Night Movie
- Video Games
- Warm pretzels, Chocolate & other holiday foods
- Model train display
- Cookie decorating, crafts and activities for kids of all ages!

November 30th - December 3rd
FREE ADMISSION
5 - 8:30 pm Nov. 30, Dec. 1
Noon - 6 pm Dec. 2 & 3
Special Events Center - Bldg 1829

For more info call 526-4494
www.mwr.carson.army.mil

Child and Youth Services, Caring Saturdays

— Free child care for families of deployed Soldiers is offered the first and third Saturday of each month, from noon to 7 p.m., in the East Child Development Center, building 6058. Families must bring a copy of their sponsor's deployment orders and their child's up-to-date immunization record. For reservations call 524-4218. For further information call 526-1101.

Evans Army Community Hospital —

The correspondence division of the Patient Administration Department will be closing Thursdays from noon-6 p.m. Release of information requests will not be taken during this time. This will create faster turnaround time for copies of records.

Ongoing road closures — Portions of Specker Avenue and Titus Boulevard will be closed until April. Questions about the closure or disruption of traffic along Butts Road can be addressed to Fort Carson's Directorate of Public Works Traffic Engineer, Rick Orphan, at 526-9267 or Fort Carson's Army Corps of Engineers Transformation Resident Office, Maj. John Hudson, at 526-4974.

Claims against the estate — Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Lt. Col. Eric J. Kruger, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Jacob T. Carlisle at 526-9587.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Pfc. Nathan Frigo, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Todd Allison at (512) 636-7597.

Those with claims of indebtedness to the estate of Sgt. Kevin Fair, deceased, should contact 2nd Lt. Jonathan Frederickson at 526-4336.

Conference increases drive toward sustainability

by **Susan C. Galentine**

Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management

Fort Carson stepped it up a notch at its 5th Annual Community Sustainability Conference held Nov. 8 and 9 at the Phil Long Expo Center by adding a sustainable technology expo.

In its fifth year, the momentum behind Fort Carson's efforts to engage the installation and regional stakeholders in the effort to gain irreversible momentum toward sustainability continues to grow. The one-and-a-half day conference and expo drew more than 430 attendees and featured national and local sustainability speakers from both the Army and civilian community, a sustainable technology expo of 41 exhibitors and four workshops. Information/café poster booths were manned by goal proponents from Fort Carson who answered questions about the progress of the 12 sustainability goals developed at the first annual conference in 2002 and solicited input from the conference attendees.

Fort this year's conference, Fort Carson focused on the need to establish plans and programs to ensure continuous action despite high turnover in the post population of Soldiers, families and leadership. This has been a challenge to long-term planning in military, government and even corporate environments. By gaining irreversible momentum, Fort Carson and the community will be in a position to continue progress towards sustainability.

Exhibitors provided an opportunity to view sustainable technology across a broad spectrum

of applications including renewable energy, sustainable office furniture and products, green construction and recycling. Attendees were able to see and touch sustainable technology and products at the conference, which helped many to see visible results of sustainable efforts.

The icebreaker held Nov. 8 included a community sustainability training session, speakers and the presentation of community and military sustainability awards to sustainability champions.

The day of the conference, attendees had the opportunity to listen to several national keynote speakers address sustainability in their organizations as well as participate in workshops tailored toward the areas of smart growth, transportation, solid waste and regional growth and indicators.

The speakers at the conference were:

- Col. James Balocki, the Headquarters Department of the Army Director of Environmental Programs.
- David Berry, Senior Independent Associate of AtKisson, Inc. and a founding partner in Global Insight Partners.
- Tad Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of

the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health).

- Don Juhasz, Chief of Utilities and Energy Programs, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, U.S. Army.
- Larry Schweiger, President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Wildlife Federation.

"This Conference brings together local sustainability activists in a way that no other event does. It provides the only public forum where community sustainability is the major topic of concern, said conference attendee Gary Rapp from the Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs. "Without what Fort Carson is doing, this critical idea would not even be on the table in El Paso County."

"It is gratifying to see that what we are doing at Fort Carson is making a positive difference not only for the post but also in the region. We are proud to be leaders in a community that wants to ensure a future where our grandchildren's children can live and thrive," said Mary Barber, deputy director of the Fort Carson Directorate of Environmental Compliance and Management who has led the installations sustainability efforts from its inception.



Photo by Susan Galentine

"Sustainable" barracks, like these, encourage walking to work, instead of driving. Other features include orientation to maximize solar gain, saving on energy.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Holiday Village

The Directorate of Morale Welfare and Recreation kicked off its annual Holiday Village celebration Thursday at the Special Events Center. Today's activities run from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. and include the showing of "The Holiday Express" on a 25-foot screen. Holiday Village will continue Saturday from noon until 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon until 5:40 p.m. Attractions include hay rides, indoor ice skating, photos with Santa, crafts, video games, food and model trains. Admission is free.



Reaching Samoan



Above: Music director, Tasi Sagapolutele, leads the choir in song at Veterans Chapel during the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church service.

Right: First Samoan Congregational Christian Church pastor, Reverend Daru M. Ulutu, begins the service with a prayer.



Story and photos by

Michael J. Pach

Mountaineer staff

Since last spring, the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church has been meeting every Sunday at 9 a.m. at Veterans Chapel. The congregation consists of 65 members who are active-duty Soldiers, military retirees and friends from within the community.

The main purpose of the

church is to support the Samoan Soldiers based on Fort Carson, but it is open to anyone who wishes to participate in the Christian-based services.

As pastor for the last eight years, Reverend Daru M. Ulutu focuses on bringing Samoan Soldiers and others within the military and civilian communities together in worship.

"Our major focus is to open up an avenue for the Samoan people and also for the people surrounding us to worship together," said Ulutu. "I'm thinking of spreading the word out to whomever wants to come and join our service."

Services are conducted in the Samoan language and in English to accommodate the Samoan children who were raised in the United States and anyone that does not speak Samoan.

Services also include songs sung in Samoan, some familiar, performed by a talented choir led by musical director, Tasi Sagapolutele,

Soldiers and the community

and accompanied by keyboardist, Evangeline Siliva. The choir practices every Saturday at Veterans Chapel from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and their efforts are evident in their singing.

Samoa adopted Christianity as its main religion in the 19th century as the result of the influence of missionaries from England and Ulutu describes his church as conservative and much like a Protestant church.

"We're more like a deep-inside-the-heart kind of church," said Ulutu.

Church treasurer, Piilani Alaimaleata, said there are plans in place for the congregation to construct its own building near Midway, south of Fort Carson's Gate 20 near the former Pikes Peak International Raceway, by the end of 2007.

For more information about the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church, contact Ulutu at 391-0062 or revdmulutu@hotmail.com.



Above: Reta Muasau receives gifts from the congregation in commemoration of her retirement after serving 30 years in the Air Force.

Right: Rev. Ulutu baptizes Jaime Maturu Gutierrez. Also pictured are parents, Juan and Letha Gutierrez, next to Ulutu, and godparents, Burgie and Corina Perofeta.



Left: Spc. Fran Faavae, left, Piilani Alaimaleata, middle and Samitioata Mauga, also known as the Samoan Divas, visit outside Veterans Chapel after service.



Fort Carson reviews sustainability challenges

by **Hal Alguire**

*Directorate of Environmental
Compliance and Management*

In the next few months, the garrison leadership will sit down to review the progress made in the Sustainability and Environmental Management System — a management system that provides a framework for environmental performance on Fort Carson.

With the development of the 25-year sustainability goals in 2002, Fort Carson leadership decided to combine Sustainability with the EMS to create a SEMS. This approach is unique to Fort Carson, but others are seeing the value in it. Just recently Region 8 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Denver started a SEMS.

The SEMS review provides Fort Carson leadership with the opportunity to maintain commitment toward sustainability by aligning resources against Fort Carson sustainability goals and to measure progress made to date. Measuring progress can be easy if a few basic ideas are followed. Relevant objectives, those that directly support a particular long-range goal, must first be in place. These objectives should be specific enough so that they can be measurable, simple and easy to understand, realistic and attainable, and allow for clear line of accountability.

Without a way to measure progress with a target to shoot for, it is difficult to show progress. People use measurements and targets in everyday life as they work to achieve certain goals. Losing a certain amount of weight is common to many. For many to be successful, a weight target is established and progress is measured by regular weigh-ins where the weight (in pounds) is measured and compared against a target. Another common example involves paying off a mortgage, car loan or other financial debt. People measure progress by monthly payments and have a target date to have the loan completely paid off. Again, progress can be seen as measured against a target.

In a very similar fashion, Fort Carson long-term sustainability goals need targets and a straightforward way to measure progress against those targets. Organizations and individuals on Fort Carson can develop supporting measures and targets in their own workplaces to show progress made against the Fort Carson goals.

All 12 sustainability goals proponents are developing measurements in order to better track goal attainment against clearly defined targets. In this way, Fort Carson leaders can better assess progress and align resources where required in order to achieve the long-term sustainability goals.

Fort Carson Sustainability Goals

1. Sustain all facility and mobility systems from renewable sources, and reduce the total water purchased from outside sources by 75 percent.
2. Reduce automobile dependency and provide balanced land use and transportation systems.
3. Improve communication to foster understanding and attain a "Community of One."
4. Enhance partnering to collaboratively develop, integrate, and implement regional sustainability.
5. The total weight of hazardous air pollutant emissions is reduced to zero.
6. Further integrate sustainability principles into the Fort Carson land use planning, real property master planning, and military construction, Army programming processes.
7. All applicable facilities at Fort Carson will be high performance buildings that meet or surpass the platinum standard of the Sustainable Project Rating Tool or the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.
8. Key stakeholder groups are trained, compliant and motivated toward sustainability principles.
9. All Department of Defense and Fort Carson procurement actions support sustainability.
10. The total weight of solid and hazardous waste disposed of is reduced to zero.
11. Training Ranges (land and associated air space used for live fire ranges, maneuver, testing and urban development designated for Military Operations in Urban Terrain training) capable of supporting current and future military training to standard.
12. Advance a sustainable mission and Fort Carson by adopting a SEMS and by imparting a personal commitment and enthusiasm for sustainability.

Advent ... what is it?

by Chap. (Lt. Col.) Michael T. McEwen
Staff chaplain, 1st Mobilization Brigade

This is the time of year that many Christians observe a season called 'Advent.' In Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican traditions, it is an ancient practice that had its origins about 1500 years ago. An increasing number of Protestant denominations also observe this season.

So, what is it and why? The Latin word *adventus* means "coming." It is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ, a pre-birthday observance. For Christians, it can be a time of recognizing how much they need the grace of God which, for their religion, came in the form of Jesus of Nazareth whom they call the Christ, the Savior. Christians believe that through faith in God's mercy as preached and practiced by Jesus, forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation are given.

That is a really good reason to celebrate a birth, but it is also a humbling notion. If humans realize that it takes a gift from God to make them blessed (now and forever), then they must admit their need. And that is the reason for Advent.

In the four weeks before the Christmas celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Advent observance is a time for people to reflect on the need for and dependence on God's love. In the churches that observe Advent, the colors used for such things as altar cloths, wall hangings, and other church adornments are usually changed to a special color. In some places, the color is purple, the color of penitence. In my own tradition,

that of the Episcopal Church (and in other Anglican Communion churches around the world such as the Church of England, the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and the Churches of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), the color is often a beautiful blue.

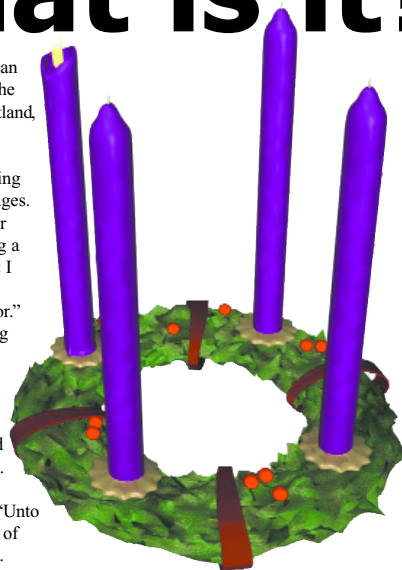
Why blue? Have you ever looked at a painting of the Virgin Mary? There are thousands of images. My wife has a collection of several dozen of her favorites. In every one of them, Mary is wearing a blue garment. There is no convincing proof that I have seen on why this is, but it is clear: blue is associated with the mother of Jesus as "her color."

So, blue is a color that is often used during Advent. And why not? After all, nobody was more involved with waiting for the birth of Christ than his mom!

No one knows what was going through Mary's mind in those final weeks. Surely, she had many of the thoughts that every mother-to-be has. The one that was probably unique to her was the memory of the words of the angel who told her: "Unto you a child will be born and he will be the savior of the world." That would get any mother's attention.

And it can get our attention as well, which is the purpose of Advent. We need God's gift of grace. I do not know about you, but I need strength beyond my own sometimes, and I need forgiveness for my failures that sometime goes beyond human understanding. That is what Christians believe God did through his son, and for that, I am eternally thankful.

A period of waiting (and remembering my need) before the great celebration of Christmas is a good



thing. The month with blue (or purple) in the church will be a nice visual reminder. The special Bible readings of Advent used in my denomination's tradition will be another important reminder.

Let the gifts we buy for Christmas be a sign of your love, God. Help us to wait for Christmas recognizing how much we need you and each other ... and the forgiveness that is your great gift to us all.

Chapel

Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate

Conception — Friday at noon and 6 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Soldiers' Memorial Chapel Protestant

Sunday School — goes looking for "Bible heroes." Protestant Sunday School Classes take on a new theme with the key scripture theme of "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you." The classes will study key Bible stories while having fun with music and games. Classes for all ages are in session each Sunday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Christmas Week Services

Catholic

Dec. 23, regular Mass at 5 p.m., Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.
Dec. 24, regular Mass at 9:15 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Dec. 24, regular Mass at 11 a.m. at Provider Chapel.

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Children's Mass at 5 p.m., Soldiers' Memorial Chapel

Dec. 24, Candle-Lighting Mass at 10 p.m., Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Dec. 25, Christmas Mass, 9:15 a.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Jan. 1, Feast of the Holy Family, 6 p.m., Soldiers' Memorial Chapel.

Protestant:

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Candle-Lighting Service, 7 p.m. at Soldiers' Memorial Chapel

Samoan

Dec. 24, 10 p.m.-midnight, service and youth presentation.

Dec. 31, 10 p.m.-midnight, New Year's Eve Service.

Jan. 4, 6-8 p.m., special New Year Week prayer service.

Chapel Schedule

ROMAN CATHOLIC

Day	Time	Service	Chapel	Location	Contact Person
Mon., Wed., Fri.	noon	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/526-7412
Tues., Thurs.	noon	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Saturday	5 p.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Mass	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Sunday	10:30 a.m.	CRE	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Fr. Gagliardo/576-7412
Sunday	11 a.m.	Mass	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Goellen/526-5769
Tuesday	7 p.m.	RCIA	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Pat Treacy/524-2458
Saturday	4 p.m.	Reconciliation	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Goellen/526-5769

PROTESTANT

Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant	Healer	Evans Army Hospital	Chap. Cartee/526-7387
Sunday	9 a.m.	Protestant Communion	Provider	Barkeley & Ellis	Chap. Mitchell/650-8042
Sunday	11 a.m.	Protestant	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	ProT/Gospel	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Prussman	Barkeley & Prussman	Chap. Borden/526-4206
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	Sun. School	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Dr. Scheck/526-5626
Tuesday	9 a.m.	PWOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Chap. Nicholas/526-8011
Sunday	11 a.m.	Contemporary	Veterans'	Magrath & Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8890
Tuesday	7 p.m.	PVOC	Soldiers'	Nelson & Martinez	Ms. Scheck/231-9511
Sunday	9 a.m.	Samoan	Veterans'	Titus	Chap. Fritts/526-8888

JEWISH

For information and a schedule of Jewish Sabbath services, call the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel at 333-2636.

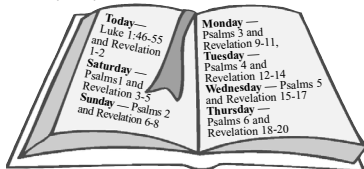
WICCA

Monday	6:30 p.m.	building 4800, corner of Harr and O'Connell	Rhonda Helfrich/338-9464
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NATIVE AMERICAN SWEATLODGE

Native American Sweatlodge ceremonies (He Ska Akicita Inipi) are offered to military dependents and Department of Defense personnel. These lodges are traditional Lakota spiritual ceremonies for cleansing, purification and prayer, and are fully sanctioned and supported by the Fort Carson Chaplain Command. The next ceremony is Sunday noon. Please call the following for information and directions: Charlie Erwin at 382-8177 or erwincl@msn.com; or Zoe Goodblanket 442-0929.

Daily Bible readings: To assist in regular scripture reading, the following scriptures are recommended. These scriptures are part of the common daily lectionary, which is designed to present the entire Bible over a three-year cycle.



The Army Cycle of Prayer — Please pray this week for the following:

Unit: For the Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers of the 95th Division (Institutional Training), headquartered in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Army: For Valerie Baldwin, assistant secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller and the military and civilian staff who support this agency's activities.

State: For all the Soldiers and families from the state of Rhode Island. Pray also for Gov. Donald Carcieri, the state legislators and local officials of the "Ocean State."

Nation: For the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, and the department's mission to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Religious: For Soldiers of all faiths stationed around the world during this holiday season, especially those deployed away from family and friends. For safety and a blessed reunion for all who travel to be with family.

For more information on the Army Cycle of Prayer, or to pray for items from previous weeks, visit the cycle's web site at www.armychaplain.com.



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

For a good cause

Officers and noncommissioned officers tee off at hole fourteen at Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club, Nov. 16 as part of Santa's Workshop toy drive for the children of Fort Carson Soldiers, sponsored by the Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Club. Donations will be accepted by Robin Wininger, until Tuesday at the golf club or by mail to the FCOSC, P. O. Box 12886, Fort Carson, CO 80913. Wininger can be reached at 526-1554.



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Great American Smokeout

Pfc. Shawn Elliott, right, and Pvt. Christopher Siltz, far right, both with the D Company, I-9 Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, speak with Steven Mitchem, left, health promotions technician with the Mountain Post Wellness Center, who was handing out literature, mints and key chains to assist Soldiers with smoking cessation, Nov. 16.

GOT NEWS?

Call 526-4144 or e-mail details to:
Mountaineereditor@carson.army.mil.



Photo by Diana Nicholas-Addy

And the winner is...

Above: Brig. Gen. Anne Macdonald and Command Sgt. Maj. Terrance McWilliams, Division West, First Army, present the staff of Wolf Dining Facility with a trophy for the best Fort Carson dining facility Thanksgiving meal presentation.

Left: Macdonald inspects one of the food displays at Wolf Dining Facility on Thanksgiving. The various dining facilities compete each year to see which team can make the most creative and attractive presentation.



'Operation Homecoming'

Authors promote new NEA book

by **Rebecca E. Tonn**
Mountaineer staff

The National Endowment for the Arts hosted a discussion and book signing at Fort Carson's Freedom Performing Arts Center Nov. 15. The book signing promoted NEA's release of the new book, "Operation Homecoming: Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front, in the Words of U.S. Troops and Their Families."

"Operation Homecoming" is an anthology of nearly 100 writings — letters, e-mails, poems, narratives and other genres — from Soldiers and family members, written since Sept. 11.

Funded by the Boeing Company, the NEA project, Operation Homecoming, conducted writing workshops with authors Jeff Shaara, Tobias Wolff, Tom Clancy, Bobbie Ann Mason and others at 25 domestic and overseas military installations from April 2004 through July 2005.

Jeff Shaara, best selling author of "Gods and Generals" and the newly released World War II novel, "The Rising Tide," was on hand to discuss his participation in the NEA's groundbreaking initiative, Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience.

"I led writing workshops at military bases in Alaska. I spent a week in the Pacific Gulf (in Alaska) on an aircraft carrier watching the FA-18s take off with bombs and then return without the bombs. This was not a drill.

"The Soldiers were as diverse as 19-year-old cheerleader types to lieutenant colonels, all doing their jobs. There was no grouching, no controversy — no politics. It was about doing the best job they could.

"As I would lead the writing workshops, they would say, 'My story's probably not very interesting,' and they would proceed to tell me a story that had my jaw dropping," Shaara said.

Three contributing authors were on hand to sign copies of "Operation Homecoming" and answer questions. Paula Anderson, whose husband is stationed at Fort Carson, was excited to submit her story to the NEA's project.

"Of course, getting published in the book was a plus, but to be able to get my story out felt good. I started writing when I found out about the start of the war and I knew he (her husband) was getting deployed," Anderson said.

Ryan Kelly, a playwright now living in Denver, was a captain with the New Jersey Army National Guard,

when he was deployed to Iraq in 2004.

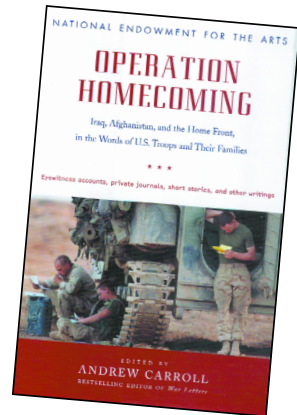
"I got an e-mail from my aunt saying the NEA was looking for contributions. I had already been writing letters home and the workshops were concluded. But I was fortunate enough to have my letters included (in the book).

"I found out while I was in Iraq or shortly after I returned home—I can't remember — I was too excited. I was probably jumping up and down. It is a profound honor, not only to be in such distinguished company, with such amazing talent in this book, but to have served with men and women, whom I consider to be America's best," Kelly said.

Peter Madsen, a veteran and Black Hawk pilot, found himself in the role of stay-at-home dad when his wife went back on active duty in March 2004.

"I had already started writing, but for me, I did struggle with staying behind. I served (in the Army and Marines) for years and years, and my wife was always the one at home. I'd call her from the Amazon and she'd be telling me about the repairs the mini-van needed, and I'd think, 'I'm in a tent in the Amazon and she's complaining about a mini-van?'"

"But, now I know how hard it is to be the one at home. I learned



everything I had to learn in a week, and failed at it in two days; it was probably entertaining for my children. I really wrote about surviving with my kids and her gone. 'You have no idea how hard it is on the other end,' my wife said. And she was right," Madsen said.

Shaara felt honored to be part of Operation Homecoming.

"I want you Soldiers to have faith in yourselves and your experience and to tell us about it. If you don't tell us your story, we will never hear about it from someone else," said Shaara.



Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Splish, splash

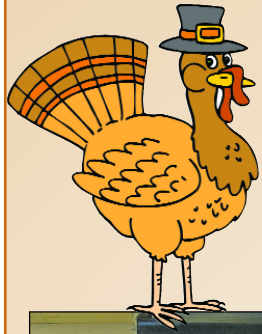
Family members splash and play in the pool Nov. 22 during a Military Family Appreciation Week event, sponsored by the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Fort Carson Aquatics also offers a variety of swimming lessons and programs, and the indoor pool is handicapped accessible.



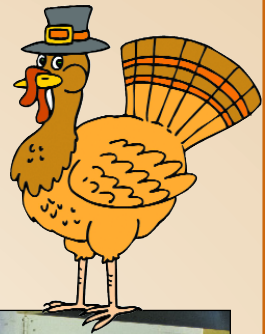
Photo by Rebecca E. Tonn

Volunteers of the Quarter

Four volunteers were honored in a ceremony Nov. 20. Shown, from left to right, are: Myra Michel, Annetta Ebrecht, Rosemary Kerns, and youth volunteer Samantha Montoya. Michel volunteers as the interim battalion's family readiness group leader of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Ebrecht volunteers with the Army Community Service as the Army Family Team Building program manager. Kerns volunteers with the Fort Carson Officers' Spouses' Club as vice president. Samantha volunteers with the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Child and Youth Services at the Youth Center. She is president of the Torch Club.



Giving to the community on Thanksgiving



Spec. Patricia Lilly, Supply and Distribution Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, stirs a pot of gravy at Odd Fellows Hall.



Brig. Gen. Anne Macdonald, left, Brig Gen John Macdonald, to her left, Command Sgt. Major Terrance McWilliams, center, and other volunteers serve Thanksgiving meals at Odd Fellows Hall. Approximately 5,000 meals were served to the Colorado Springs community at five locations across the area.



Sgt. Robert Myrick, Supply and Distribution Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, removes turkeys from an oven at Indian Head Dining Facility.

Story and photos by Michael J. Pach Mountaineer staff

Fort Carson and the Salvation Army, in cooperation with a variety of organizations in El Paso County, supplied approximately 5,000 turkey dinners at five locations across the Colorado Springs community. About 1,200 volunteers served meals at the Odd Fellows Hall, Marian House Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army El Paso County Command, Fountain Valley Senior Center, and Manitou Springs Town Hall.

Transportation and home delivery of meals for shut-ins and two mobile kitchens were also provided to ensure that no one in the community went hungry or was alone at Thanksgiving.

The Salvation Army delivered 250 turkeys, 625 pounds of mashed potatoes, 1,800 pounds of green beans and 1,300 pounds of stuffing to Indian Head Dining Facility Nov. 17, where members of Supply and Distribution Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division prepared the food for delivery to the five locations.

S & D Soldiers began the food preparation on Nov. 20 and worked diligently throughout the week to cook all of the food that was supplied. S & D cooks started their Thanksgiving at

midnight with final food preparations and the packaging of food for transport. Food items were placed in tin trays that fit into insulating "merrite" containers for delivery and reheated in portable ovens on location.

"Having us feed the disadvantaged in Colorado Springs is a big deal," said Staff Sgt. Steve Szakal of S & D Company. "It gives our cooks an opportunity to see what's going on in the community."

Brig. Gen. Anne Macdonald, Division West, First Army, Brig. Gen. John Macdonald, Army Installation Management Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Terrance McWilliams, Division West, First Army, served meals at the Odd Fellows Hall and visited with community members and volunteers.

This year marks the 19th year that Fort Carson has supported this event, and other Soldiers were on hand to serve as volunteers.

The Salvation Army also provides dinners on Christmas Day at the same locations. For more information or to volunteer, call Salvation Army volunteer coordinator Alma Scott at 636-5266 or e-mail her at alma.scott@usw.army.org.



Soldiers from the 2nd BCT, 4th ID unload 4,000 pounds of turkey, 625 pounds of mashed potatoes, 1,800 pounds of green beans and 1,300 pounds of dressing delivered by the Salvation Army to Indian Head Dining Facility Nov. 17.

Layout by Jeanne Mazerall



Spec. April Vasquez, left, and Sgt. Clayton Johnson, S&D Company, 2nd BCT, 4th ID, strip cooked turkey legs at Indian Head Dining Facility. Two hundred fifty turkeys were prepared for Thanksgiving meals.



Photo by Michael J. Pach

Thanksgiving dinner giveaway

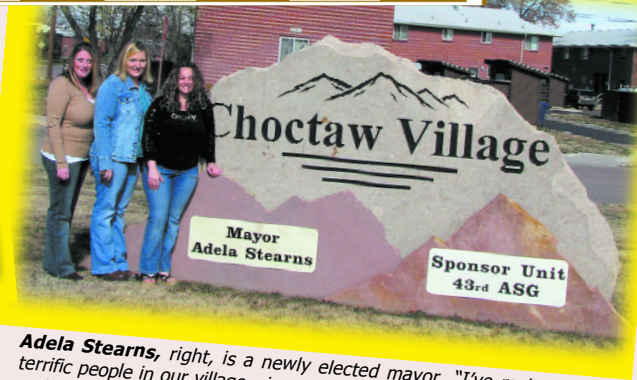
Members of the Mountain Post Military Masonic Lodge #26 pose at Prussman Chapel with turkey dinners that were given to needy families in the community. The lodge has been in existence since 1978 and the Thanksgiving dinner giveaway has been a tradition for 20 years. This year, 55 families received meals.

Meet the mayors



Danyra Wallace, right, is a re-elected mayor. "As mayors, we are a voice for our residents. In order to better our community, we need their input. I encourage our residents to e-mail us with their concerns," Wallace said. Wallace can be reached at 559-8631 or DanyraWallace@yahoo.com.

Heidi Krystofiak, left, was appointed deputy mayor in March. "It is important to us that we make a difference in our village. We hope residents feel comfortable enough to call us with suggestions for improvements," Krystofiak said. Krystofiak can be reached at 559-7497 or heidi_ronnie@hotmail.com.



Adela Stearns, right, is a newly elected mayor. "I've met a lot of terrific people in our village, since I started with the mayoral program, and I look forward to meeting more people," Stearns said. Stearns can be reached at 302-4784.

Kimberly Williams is a newly appointed deputy. "We're in the process of setting up a neighborhood watch. We want to make our neighborhood a safer place to live," Williams said. Williams can be reached at 351-0075.

Kaela Chambers is a newly appointed councilwoman. "We're excited about our upcoming Christmas party. We look forward to having all the residents there," Chambers said. Chambers can be reached at 559-7976.

Stearns, Williams and Chambers can be reached at Choctaw_village@yahoo.com.

2006 tax season approaching

by Capt. Samuel Kim

*Fort Carson Tax Center
Officer-In-Charge*

While tax season may not be on everyone's mind, now is the time to start gathering documents, thinking about actions taken over the last year that have tax consequences and planning for filing your 2006 tax returns.

The Fort Carson Tax Center provides free tax services for active-duty Soldiers and their family members; mobilized Reservists and their family members; Soldiers receiving either retirement or disability pay and their family members; and surviving family members of active-duty, mobilized Reservists and retired Soldiers.

The Fort Carson Tax Center is scheduled to open Jan. 29 and will provide electronic filing of your Federal returns and most State returns, if possible. Federal and state tax forms will be available as well.

In order for personnel at the Tax Center to help you file your return, it will be necessary for you to have certain documents. Most important are all W-2s, Social Security cards for yourself and all dependents, birth dates for you, your spouse and family members, and, if applicable, a power-of-attorney authorizing you to sign a

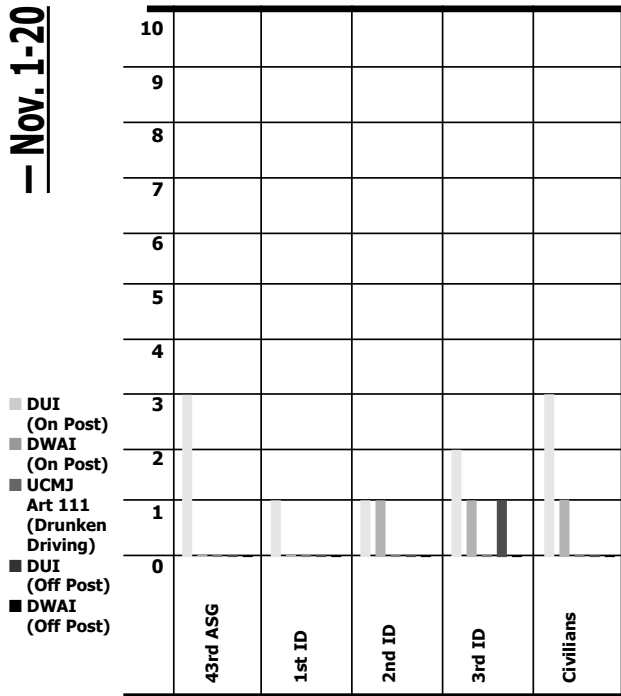
tax return or an Internal Revenue Service Form 2848, if you will be filing for your spouse. If relevant, you should also bring either Form 1099 INT or DIV, all mortgage interest statements, childcare information, Individual Retirement Account contributions, documentation of sale of stocks, bonds or mutual funds, alimony paid or received, and court orders for divorce and/or child custody and support. Without complete records, an accurate tax return cannot be completed and your tax liability may be higher than if these records were available.

The Fort Carson Tax Center is located on Woodfill Road, across from the Colorado Inn and Elkhorn Conference Center, in Building 6284, the same location as last season. Signs will be posted around Fort Carson to direct you.

A wealth of tax information can be obtained from the IRS Website, www.irs.gov, pertaining to both individual tax returns as well as specific military tax issues. If you have questions about your taxes, call the Fort Carson Legal Assistance Office at 526-5572/5573. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Cited violations for DUI, DWAI, Article 111

— Nov. 1-20



Santa's in Town!

Come meet Santa at the Elkhorn
Thursday, December 7th 2006
4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

This will be a fun holiday party for everyone!

**Free Picture
with Santa for
all Kids!**

Free Face Painting
Cookie Decorating
Children's Movies & Music
PB&J Sandwiches
Hot Dogs

Buttered Popcorn
Potato Chips
Holiday Candy
Kool Aid



\$5.00 per person at the door
Kids 6-10 years are \$2.50
5 years and under are free



576-6646

Coming Attractions

E-SCAPES
featuring



- Digital Lounge
- High tech on-line gaming
- WiFi
- Coffee Lounge

Coming to the old Xtremes
location, Building 1532

For information: 576-7540



Texas Hold'em Tournament

9 DECEMBER 2006

4 P.M. @ XTREMES, BLDG. 1532

LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 PAID PARTICIPANTS

\$30 ENTRY FEE

CALL 576-7540 FOR INFO

Win Great Prizes!



1st PLACE: 4 NIGHT BRIDGE



2nd PLACE: DIGITAL CAMERA



3rd PLACE: HOME THEATRE SOUND SYSTEM

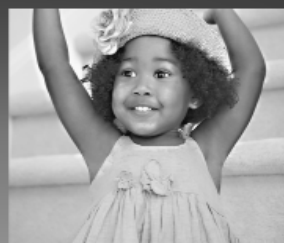
Make it to the "Final Table" and win prizes!

Registration required.
(Must be 18 to register.)

GO ALL IN



Fort Carson Family Child Care



Stay at home with your children and nurture the hearts
and minds of all children while earning money!

Benefits of becoming an FCC Provider:

- Free training on Child Development and Business Practices
- Free Child Care during training classes
- Free starter kit
- Free use of the toy lending library

Initial orientation is conducted the first Friday of every month from 9 am - 10 am
at Child & Youth Services, Building 5510 on Harr Avenue.

For more information call

Fort Carson

Child & Youth Services • Family Child Care 526-3338/1108



Free

Holiday Village "The Holiday Express" is at the Special Events Center through Sunday. Kick off the holiday season with family-oriented entertainment, food and activities for all ages. Entry is free.

"The Lighter Side of Christmas Parade, 'The Blizzard of Oz,'" is Saturday at 6 p.m. on the main street of Woodland Park. It starts at the Taco Bell and ends at the Ute Pass Cultural Center, where there'll be a tree lighting ceremony. There will be music and Santa will meet the children after the parade. Call 686-1820 ext. 112 for information.

"Festival of Lights" parade is in downtown Colorado Springs Saturday at 5:50 p.m. This colorful parade is a favorite of children of all ages. The theme is "Home for the Holidays." For more information call 649-9111 or go online at www.coloradospringsfestivaloflights.org.

A Tuba Christmas concert precedes the parade Saturday. The Tuba Christmas concert at 4 p.m. launches the Colorado Springs Festival of Lights celebration and parade. The concert is at the Acacia Park band shell, between Nevada Avenue and Tejon Street. Music played by 70 tubas is a truly awesome sound.

Get an early start for the parade at the Family Holiday Event at the Pioneers Museum, 215 S. Tejon, Saturday. Doors open at 10 a.m. with a variety of activities for children and families. A magician performs at 11 a.m., followed by the Colorado Springs Show Choir at noon. Tom O'Boyle leads a holiday singalong at 2 p.m. Visitors will see model trains, weaving and spinning demonstrations and visit museum exhibits. The museum is open through the parade.

Seven Falls Holiday lighting is Dec. 16-30, except it is closed Christmas Eve. The usual admission fee is waived for visitors, but a \$3 donation per person is requested. The donations go to Christmas Unlimited. During the holiday season Seven Falls is lit with 200,000 lights and the Seven Falls are bathed in multi-colored lights. Gates are open 5-9:30 p.m. Santa will be at Seven Falls from 5:30-8 p.m. all evenings before Christmas Eve.

Celebrate Christmas in Old Colorado City with Santa Claus. He'll be in Bancroft Park from 11



a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas Eve. Carriage rides are available and there's entertainment along Colorado Avenue. Metered parking will be free every Saturday. More information at www.ShopOldColoradoCity.com.

A traditional German Christmas Market is in Denver, through Dec. 22, at the Cherry Creek Shopping Center, near Bed, Bath and Beyond and Elway's. Continuing the 500-year-old German tradition, festive booths offer gingerbread hearts, tree ornaments, a giant Christmas pyramid

The Denver Parade of Lights is today at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 6 p.m. along a two-mile route. It starts in front of Civic Center Park. For more information, go online at www.denverparadeoflights.com.

Denver has spectacular holiday lights, especially the red and green lights at the Denver Civic Center.

Enjoy a free holiday dinner Dec. 25, hosted by the Salvation Army and a host of volunteers. The traditional meal is served at the following locations and hours:

The Salvation Army
908 Yuma St.
Colorado Springs
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Odd Fellows Hall
575 S. Union Blvd.
Colorado Springs
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Marian House
4 W. Bijou St.
Colorado Springs
10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Manitou Springs
Town Hall
606 Manitou Ave.
Manitou Springs
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Fountain Valley
Senior Center
5725 Southmoor Dr.
Fountain
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

"Snowflakes and Smiles" is a holiday parade in Manitou Springs. It begins at Memorial Park at noon Dec. 9, and there will be free cider and cookies at Manitou Springs Town Hall after the parade. Call 685-5089 for information.

"Holly and Ivy" holiday concert by the Air Force Academy Band is in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade, at 7 p.m. Dec. 11, 12 and 13. Tickets are free but must be picked up at the Pikes Peak Center box office or World Arena box office.

The Air Force Academy Cadet Orchestra and the Amadeus Strings of the Youth Symphony present a concert Saturday at 3 p.m. near J.C. Penney in the Citadel Mall.

The Pikes Peak Flute Choir Holiday Concert is at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave. It's free, information at www.thepikespeakflutechoir.com.

"Handel's "Messiah" is presented by the Academy Cadet Chorale and Orchestra. at 7:30 p.m. at the Protestant Cadet Chapel at the Air Force Academy. It's free; for information call 333-3817.

Georgetown Christmas Market is a long standing tradition. The old mining town, west of Denver, is the setting for a European-style Christmas market Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 9-10. St. Nicolas will be there, along with entertainment.

Happenings



Places to see in the Pikes Peak area.
Dec. 1, 2006

Merry

From Page 37

Nearly free

Meet Santa at the Elkhorn Conference Center Thursday, from 4-7 p.m. Admission to the party is \$5 for 10 and older. Children 6-10 years old are charged \$2.50; those 5 and under are free. There'll be face painting, cookie decorating and refreshments. Call 576-6646 for information.

Holiday evenings are celebrated at Rock Ledge Ranch Dec. 15-16, from 4-8 p.m., with jingle bell wagon rides, musical entertainment, lantern light tours, blacksmithing demonstrations and a barn dance. St. Nicholas will be in the Carriage House. Admission is \$2-\$6; those under 5 are admitted free. Rock Ledge Ranch is just off 30th St., next to the Garden of the Gods entrance.

"My Favorite Things," is an exhibit in Buell Children's Museum at Sangre de Cristo Arts Center in Pueblo. Featured are popup holiday greeting cards, reindeer games and Teddy Bear Tree. Mrs. Claus is in the house noon-2 p.m. Saturday and Dec. 9 and 16. Call (719) 295-7209 or go online at www.sdearts.org. The exhibit is in place through Jan. 6, at 210 N. Santa Fe. Ave. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Admission is \$4.

Free entry to the Soli Deo Gloria Choir at two concerts, "Blessed Light ... Holy Night" at 3 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 846 E. Pikes Peak Avenue. Please bring a nonperishable food item for Care and Share. Call 262-0614 for more information.

\$10 and under

Cut your own Christmas tree. Buy a permit at the forest office at 601 S. Weber St., in Colorado Springs, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Trees may be cut on weekends through Dec. 13. Tickets will also be sold at Woodland Park Middle School parking lot Saturday and Sunday and Dec. 9-10., 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Cash or check only; get map when you purchase permit.

"Scrooge!" is presented in the Woodmen Valley Chapel, 250 E. Woodmen Road, today through Dec. 10, at 7 p.m. Sunday performances are at 3 p.m. Admission is \$8.50. Call 388-5000 for ticket information or go online at www.woodmenvalley.org.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's holiday lights extravaganza "Electric Safari" runs nightly Dec. 8 through Jan. 1 (with the exception of Christmas Eve) from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Nearly a million lights and animal light displays can be seen by visitors, who can warm up at warming stations throughout the zoo. Santa and his helpers are in My Big Backyard, to visit with youngsters through Dec. 23. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children 3-11. Under 3 are admitted free. Soldiers and families get half-price admission; show identification.

"A Christmas Wish" is in the Butte Opera House in Cripple Creek through Dec. 31. Friday performances are at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sundays at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$7 for children. Call 235-8944 or go online at www.butteoperahouse.com.

The Colorado Springs Youth Symphony "Holiday Pops" is in the Pikes Peak Center at 7 p.m. today. Tickets start at \$14; www.ticketwest.co.

The Colorado Springs Children's Chorale presents "Tis the Season, Our Family Album," Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center. Tickets start at \$11, call 520-SHOW.

"Christmas Joy Concert" at 7 p.m. Dec. 9 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 10, at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade. Tickets start at \$12; 520-7469.

"America the Beautiful Chorus" presents a concert "A Holiday Housewarming, Songs of the Season" at Benet Hill Center, 2577 N. Chelton Road, Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$12, call 272-4390.

Santa's Workshop at the North Pole, a Christmas-themed amusement park, is open through Christmas Eve, weather permitting, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The park is closed all day Dec. 20 and closes at 4 p.m. Christmas Eve. Soldiers and their families get in for \$10 each. Rides and magic shows are included,



Photo by Nel Lampe

A gigantic traditional German Christmas pyramid is part of the German Christmas Market in Denver's Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

as well as a visit with Santa. Call 684-9432 for information. Bring along your Christmas cards to mail at the post office for a "North Pole" postmark.

\$16 and more

"Deck the Hall," by the Colorado Springs Chorale, is in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade, Dec. 8. Call 520-7469 or go online at www.cschorale.org. Tickets start at \$16.

John Tesh presents a concert Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave.. Call 520-SHOW. Tickets start at \$19.

Marie Osmond's "The Magic of Christmas" is in the Pikes Peak Center Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m., tickets start at \$46.50; call 520-SHOW.

"A Christmas Carol" is running through Dec. 24 in the Stage Theatre, at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Denver. Call (303) 893-4100 for ticket information; tickets start at \$29.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra plays at the World Arena Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Call 520-SHOW, 576-2626 or go online at www.ticketwest.com. Tickets start at \$43.



Photo by Nel Lampe

Santa's Workshop at the North Pole, a Christmas-themed amusement park, is open through Christmas Eve. Drop off your Christmas cards for a North Pole postmark; Admission for Soldiers and their families is \$10 each.



Photo by Nel Lampe

The Towne Center Shopping Center at First and Main is decorated for the holiday season.

Get Out!

Concerts

Brad Paisley and American Idol winner Carrie Underwood are in concert Saturday at 7 p.m. at the World Arena; call 576-2626, tickets start at \$47.

The TransSiberian Orchestra presents a concert at the World Arena Dec. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Call 576-2626 for ticket information.

John Tesh presents a concert Dec. 16 at the World Arena, call 576-2626 for tickets.

The Lettermen's Christmas Show is at the Air Force Academy's Arnold Hall today at 7:30 p.m. Call the box office at 634-4497. Tickets start at \$15.

Andrea Bocelli presents a concert in Denver's Pepsi Center Dec. 9; call 520-9090 for tickets which start at \$55.

Brule, a Native American holiday concert is in the Pikes Peak Center Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at 520-SHOW.

A Holiday Pops concert by the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony, "Holiday Pops" is today at 7 p.m., in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Tickets start at \$14; call 576-2626.

Michael Martin Murphey presents a "Cowboy Christmas" at 3 p.m. Dec. 17 in the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Tickets start at \$27, call 574-2626 or go online

at www.ticketwest.com.

Flying W Ranch

The Flying W Ranch is offering a complimentary meal for Soldiers with identification who take their families to a dinner and Western show in the winter steakhouse during the holiday season. Available at 5 or 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, the menu includes steak for \$26; or trout, ribs, brisket or chicken for \$24. There's a reduced price for children under 8. The complimentary meal for Soldiers taking their families is also available at a Christmas chuckwagon supper Dec. 9, 16 and 21. That price is \$23 for adults, \$10 for children under 8. Call 598-4000 or go online to www.flyingw.com. The Flying W is at 3330 Chuckwagon Road.

Pueblo Zoo

The Pueblo Zoo Has "Electricritters" during the holiday season. See the zoo lighted in holiday splendor today, Saturday and Sunday, as well as Dec. 8-10, 15-23, and 26-30. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Pueblo Zoo is in the City Park in Pueblo, just off Pueblo Boulevard on the western side of Pueblo. Take Interstate 25 south to the Highway 50 west exit. Follow signs for Pueblo State Park, going south on Pueblo Boulevard to City Park; call (719) 561-1452.

Productions

"Hats! A New Musical for the Rest of Your Life," is in the new Denver Civic Theatre, 721 Santa Fe Drive in Denver. Tickets start at \$37.50; call (866) 464-27626.

"Arms and the Man" is a romantic comedy presented by UCCS TheatreWorks through Dec. 17. Call 262-3232 for tickets or go online, www.uccstheatreworks.com.

"1940s Radio Hour" is in the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center theater, 30 W. Dale St., through Dec. 10. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Call the box office at 634-5583 for tickets.

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day," presented by the Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration Family Theater is Monday at 7 p.m. at the Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave. Call 520-7469 for ticket information.

Butte Opera House in Cripple Creek is staging "A Christmas Wish" at 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at 1 and 7 p.m. Sunday performances are at 1 p.m. It's \$12 for adults and \$7 for children; call 235-8944 or go online at www.butteoperahouse.com. Cripple Creek is an hour from Colorado Springs; go west on Highway 24 to Divide, take Highway 67 south. **"A Christmas Carol"** is in Denver Center Theatre Company, through Dec. 24. Tickets are at TicketsWest or (800) 641-1222.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

"Electric Safari," when the zoo lights up for the holidays, is half-price admission for Soldiers and their families. Show identification at the admission gate from 5:30-8 p.m. Dec. 8 through Jan. 1, except Christmas Eve. Santa is in "My Big Backyard" and so are pony rides. The zoo is behind the Broadmoor Hotel, at 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road.

Compiled by Nel Lampe



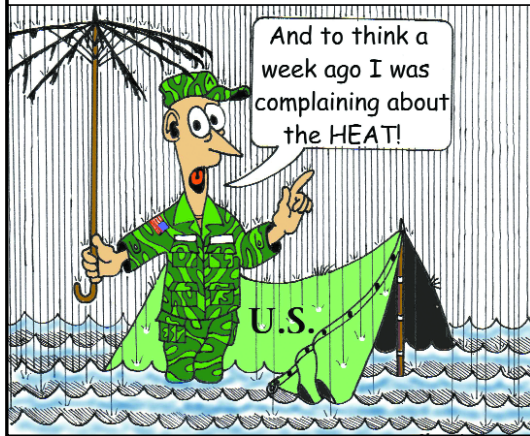
Photo by Nel Lampe

Royal Gorge santa express

Santa will be on all 12:30 p.m. trains Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9-10, and Dec. 16-24. Children 3-12 may ride for half price in coach on all December trains. Regular coach fare is \$29.95 for adults and \$19.50 for ages 3-12. Call (888) 724-5748 for reservations. The Royal Gorge Route leaves from the train station in Cañon City.

New Hazard

by James Boroch



SPORTS & LEISURE

Bowling brings units team cohesion



Nathan Sawyer, left, 183rd Maintenance Company commander, talks with members of his unit during intramural bowling activities Nov. 15 at the post bowling lanes.

**Story and photos by
Walt Johnson**

Mountaineer staff

A trip to the post's Thunder Alley Bowling Center on Thursday evenings will find members of units enjoying themselves in the sport of bowling and building the kind of camaraderie and unit cohesion that few other events can.

Recently members of the 183rd Maintenance Company ("The best company in the world," according to Capt. Nathan Sawyer, company commander) showed just how much the sport of bowling can mean to a unit that is preparing to defend the nation. Sawyer said he took time out from his busy schedule as company commander to spend some recreation time with the troops because of the value it adds to their unit readiness and understanding of each other.

"I think it's important to come out and participate in the intramural leagues because it shows the troops that I support them and that I am human (and enjoy recreational activities) just like them. This is in line with what I believe in that I am willing to do the same things they do and I wouldn't ask my troops to do anything I wouldn't do. This is the

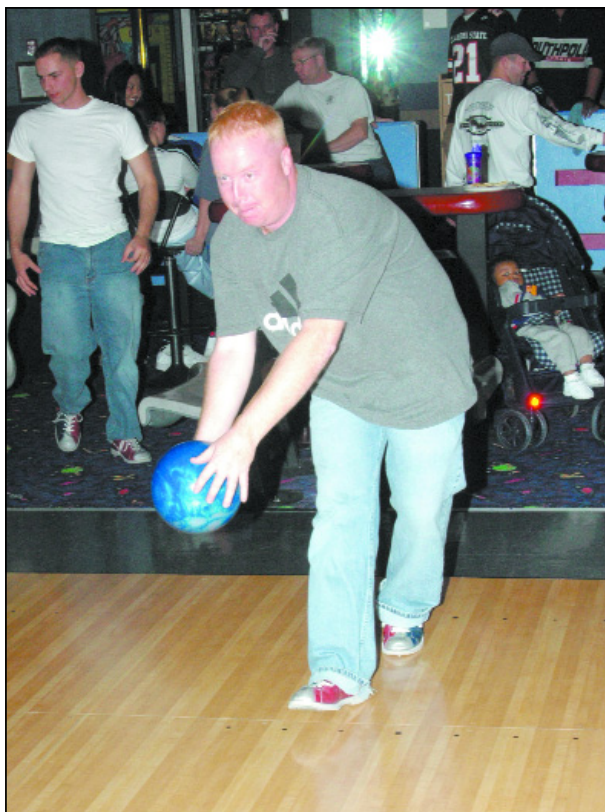
first time I have been able to come out and bowl with the troops and I asked my commander if it would be possible for me to be with the troops today at intramural bowling because it was important to me. He understood why it was important and made it possible for me to be here," Sawyer said.

Watching the unit members interact with each other and their families you can see why the 183 Maintenance Company is one that makes its company commander consider it the best in the Army. Abram McDuffie Jr., whom Sawyer calls "the Tiger Woods of Fort Carson bowling," said the unit would have fun at the recreation activity but there is something even more special about having his command level there with the troops and their families.

"I think having the company commander here builds morale and cohesion within the unit. When your company commander can get down in the trenches with you, even in this type of recreation setting, it makes you feel confident you can follow him anywhere. If a commander can come out and get involved with an intramural program he shows me he is the type of person I can trust to lead me on the battlefield," McDuffie said.



Darrin January, left, and his wife Melissa enjoy a night at the bowling lanes with their son Xavier during the 183rd Maintenance Unit's intramural activities Nov. 15.



A member of the 183rd Maintenance Unit prepares to bowl during action Nov. 15 at the post bowling lanes.

On the Bench

Soldiers' Angels brighten troops' return from duty in Middle East

Story and photo by Walt Johnson

Mountaineer staff

Katrina Grant knows a little bit about reaching out and helping others as she was one of the cheerleading directors for the youth services program last season. Grant gave her time to the young women even though she was in the middle of a very trying time for her personally; her husband Jason was deployed to one of the hot zones in Iraq at the same time she was coaching the team. She had one part of her mind with the team and another part on her husband's well being.

Grant successfully coached the team and this past summer decided she wanted to be just as successful in helping her husband and other Soldiers returning from Iraq adjust to being home after serving our nation.

Grant obviously knew what needed to be done to help her husband feel at home and comfortable, but that wasn't enough for her. She said she knew how good it would be for her husband to come back home

to his family but was concerned about how the single Soldiers returning would be welcomed back.

Grant then learned about Soldiers' Angels, a program with the motto "May no Soldier go unloved," which made her realize that returning Soldiers at Fort Carson needed this type of program to welcome them home. She went about seeing that the Soldiers would get a special welcome home.

"The Soldiers' Angels program was started by the mother of a Soldier who was deployed in 2003. The Soldier noticed that many of his fellow Soldiers weren't getting care packages at the same level that married Soldiers were. After he told his mother about this, she started the Soldiers' Angels program so that the Soldiers in his unit would receive packages and other forms of assistance," Grant said.

"I got involved with it because I wanted to do something for my husband and I when he came home for his rest and relaxation period





Photo by Walt Johnson

Unit outing

From left, Erik Traywick, James Rigdon and Atiyhia Godbold, talk about intramural bowling activities during a break in the games at the Thunder Alley Bowling Center.

Bench

From Page 42

and I learned about the Soldiers' Angels program while doing research for doing things to make my husband's time here the best it could be. I got into touch with the Soldiers' Angels organization and they asked me to do something for the Soldiers at Fort Carson and I decided I was going to do what I could and I would do it to the best of my abilities," Grant added.

With the same determination and energy that led her to lead the cheerleading squad to success, Grant made sure that the single Soldiers returning to Fort Carson knew someone cared about them. Employing the resources of her husband's unit, which made sure each of the returning Soldier's rooms had the items Grant was able to collect, and doing a lot of work on her own, Grant was able to get "care packages," which consisted of blankets, sheets, welcome home cards and Soldiers' Angels coins.

"This became something I had to do because I know how much I like to help people when I can. I know what it's like to be at rock bottom and I know what it's like to be on a high. My husband would be on a high because he had someone who loves him to come home to, and I thought it was important that the Soldiers had something to come home to also," Grant said.

Rocky Mountain Sports Officials Association is looking for a few good men and women that are interested in being sports officials.

The association, which does the officiating for a lot of the military and civilian sports activities in Colorado Springs, is looking for people who are interested in learning to be an official or who want to continue their career as officials. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the association should contact John Wyatt at 382-0199 or e-mail him at tophoopref@adelphia.net.

Mountaineer Intramural Sports

1st MOB wins Turkey classic

Members of the 1st Mobilization Brigade and 360th Transportation Company squared off in the finals of the post's Turkey Day Classic Nov.

21 at the post football field. The 1st MOB continued to reign over the intramural football leagues on post, posting a 14-0 victory and claiming 'Turkey Day' bragging rights for the year.



Photo by Walt Johnson

Mountaineer High School Sports



Trojans begin season

Anthony Ribauda, second from right, Fountain-Fort Carson head basketball coach, shows his team the proper way to run a play during a practice session Monday at the high school. The Trojans boys and girls will begin its basketball season Tuesday when the teams travel to Widefield High School to meet the Gladiators at 5:30 p.m.

Photo by Walt Johnson

Mountaineer Athlete of the Week



Abram McDuffie Jr.

Sports Position: Intramural bowler

Favorite Sport: Bowling is my favorite sport. My father got me started with bowling. Growing up in Richmond, Va., about all we had was bowling.

What was your greatest achievement in bowling?

The best thing I have ever done in sports was when I bowled my first 300 game. I did it three years ago at the Circle Lanes bowling alley in Colorado Springs. The event kind of built on me because I remember saying to myself I was going to bowl good tonight when I first got there. Then I felt so good about it, I told my teammates I was going to bowl a 300 game and then I went out and did it.

What was the best moment for your favorite professional team?

My best professional sports moment came last year when the Steelers won the Super Bowl. My cousin, Corey Holliday, played for the Steelers in 1976 and when he got drafted he brought me to Pittsburgh and I was able to meet the whole team. It was pretty cool and I've been a Steelers fan ever since. It was special to me because it was Jerome Bettis' last game in professional football and I was always a big Bettis fan. It was great to see them get one for the thumb.



**Week 13****Football****College**

1. Army vs. Navy
2. USC vs. UCLA
3. Air Force vs. TCU
4. Stanford vs. California
5. Arkansas vs. Florida

Pigskin Picks

Kevin Cain
Fire Department

1. Navy, 2. USC, 3. TCU,
4. California, 5. Florida, 6. Chiefs,
7. Bears, 8. Steelers, 9. Colts,
10. Dolphins, 11. Saints, 12. Falcons,
13. Bills, 14. Jets, 15. Giants,
16. Raiders, 17. Seahawks, 18. Panthers



James Hawes
2nd Infantry Divisor

1. Navy, 2. UCLA, 3. TCU,
4. Stanford, 5. Florida, 6. Chiefs,
7. Bears, 8. Steelers, 9. Colts,
10. Dolphins, 11. Saints, 12. Falcons,
13. Chargers, 14. Jets, 15. Cowboys,
16. Raiders, 17. Broncos, 18. Eagles

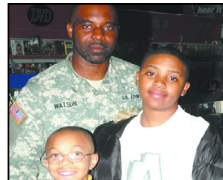
NFL

6. Chiefs vs. Browns
7. Vikings vs. Bears
8. Buccaneers vs. Steelers
9. Colts vs. Titans
10. Jaguars vs. Dolphins
11. 49ers vs. Saints
12. Falcons vs. Redskins
13. Chargers vs. Bills
14. Jets vs. Packers
15. Cowboys vs. Giants
16. Texans vs. Raiders
17. Seahawks vs. Broncos
18. Panthers vs. Eagles



Michael Lamonday
2nd Infantry Division

1. Navy, 2. USC, 3. Air Force,
4. California, 5. Florida, 6. Chiefs,
7. Bears, 8. Steelers, 9. Titans,
10. Dolphins, 11. Saints, 12. Redskins,
13. Chargers, 14. Packers, 15. Cowboys,
16. Raiders, 17. Broncos, 18. Eagles



Anthony Watson
2/91st Division

1. Navy, 2. USC, 3. Air Force,
4. Stanford, 5. Florida, 6. Browns,
7. Bears, 8. Buccaneers, 9. Colts,
10. Jaguars, 11. Saints, 12. Falcons,
13. Chargers, 14. Jets, 15. Cowboys,
16. Texans, 17. Broncos, 18. Panthers

